

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A printing system for printing a document having at least one page described in a page description language, comprising:

a printer;

a page description language decomposer for converting the document data into at least one image object;

a user interface having a first option for associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with a selected image object to be printed by said printer;

wherein a printer-independent print-quality characteristic comprises instructions for indicating a feature of an image element that is to be preserved during rendering without specifying any printer-specific imaging actions needed to achieve the feature; and

a printer control device for retrieving the printer-independent print-quality characteristics and for associating printer-dependent imaging actions with the printer-independent print-quality characteristics;

wherein printer-dependent imaging actions associated with the printer-independent print-quality characteristic comprise specific imaging actions taken by the printer to achieve the feature of the image element to be preserved during rendering.

2. (Original) The printing system of claim 1, wherein each image object has an object type and the printer-independent print-quality characteristics are associated with object type.

3. (Original) The printing system of claim 2, wherein said user interface includes a dialog screen having a control for invoking said first option for associating printer-

independent print-quality characteristics with a selected object type to be printed by said printer.

4. (Original) The printing system of claim 2, wherein said user interface further includes a second option for associating object descriptors with a selected object type and wherein, responsive to selection of an object descriptor, said first option associates printer-independent print-quality characteristics with said selected object descriptor.

5. (Original) The printing system of claim 4, wherein said user interface includes a dialog screen having a first control for invoking an option of automatically associating said object descriptors with said printer-independent print-quality characteristics in accordance with a set of predetermined associations and a second control for manually associating said object descriptors with said printer-independent print-quality characteristics.

6. (Original) The printing system of claim 4, further comprising a third option for defining a custom object descriptor.

7. (Original) The printing system of claim 5, further comprising a third option for saving a set of associations.

8. (Original) The printing system of claim 7, further comprising a fourth option for loading said saved set of associations.

9. (Original) The printing system of claim 5, further comprising a fifth option for selecting a default configuration of associations.

10. (Original) The printing system of claim 1, further comprising a second user interface having a control for associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with printer-dependent imaging actions.

11. (Original) The printing system of claim 10, wherein the second user interface includes a second control for invoking an option of automatically associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with printer-dependent imaging actions in accordance with a set of predetermined associations and a third control for manually associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with printer-dependent imaging actions.

12. (Original) The printing system of claim 11, wherein the second user interface further includes a fourth control for defining a custom printer-independent print-quality characteristic and for associating printer-dependent imaging actions with said custom printer-independent print-quality characteristic.

13. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the printer-independent print-quality characteristics comprise at least one of “make sharp edges”, “reduce mottle”, “distinguish neighboring colors”, “reduce moiré”, “distinguish tone and edges”, “maximum tone depth”, “perceptual colors”, “contour”, “no abutting corners”, “increase moiré”, “uniform gloss”, “distinctness” and “compress without loss of detail”.